TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

March 16, 2000 LB 510, 709

that conversation. I can't give you the exact details, but I can paraphrase them. And it was not I who initiated that conversation. Senator Chambers came to me and said that he was upset that a representative from the Governor's Office told him that LB 510 was being vetoed. And in my impression, it was how dare the Governor send someone other than the Governor to tell him that a bill was being vetoed. I had this happen to me once. The Governor came...the Governor sent an assistant to say that one of my bills was being vetoed. Now I don't think I'm so important that I have to have the Governor himself tell me that the bill is being vetoed. But back to the conversation. impression of the conversation was that if his bill could not be...the veto could not be overridden, that consent calendar was My language was, uh, Ernie, I have two bills on consent calendar. To make a long story short, we ended with my saying, let me make sure I understand you, you want a vote to override the veto, I have two bills on consent calendar; I know what you want, you know what I want. Now that's the conversation that was had, it was not I that came...went to Senator Chambers. But now for the poem. I could not let this lovely piece of work from Senator Chambers go unanswered. So I thought I'm going to have some fun with this, so I sat down and inspiration struck. Now I'm not the best poet, and maybe some of my lines don't quite rhyme, but I wrote it from maybe the heart and maybe from a little bit lower. "Ernie, Dear Ernie, we entered a deal. I held up my part, I thought it was real. You asked for a vote, I gave it to you. You assumed more than we agreed to do. opposed (LB) 510 from the beginning. You threatened my bills, so intent on winning. You asked for one vote, I gave you a yes. I didn't renege, I didn't regress. The public suffers, we all look like fools because you use vendettas for tools. I kept my You asked for a yes, even with my vote your bill wouldn't pass." I said they didn't quite rhyme. "The bill failed four separate times; what part of no don't you understand? Does life go on? This too shall pass."

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: "So now, Dear Ernie, you can...get on with it."

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Further debate